

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, and 11 are amended and claims 2 and 7 are canceled. Specifically, the subject matter of claims 2 and 7 is incorporated into claims 1 and 6 respectively. Additionally, the subject matter of claim 2 is incorporated into claim 11. Thus, no new matter is added and claims 1, 3-6, and 8-13 are pending and at issue.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-13 as anticipated by Great Britain Patent Application no. GB 2,252,848 to Yonnet ("Yonnet"). Each of amended claims 1, 3-6, and 8-13 recites a pilot valve having a spring-to-close configuration. Yonnet does not disclose a pilot valve having a spring to close configuration.

Specifically, the Yonnet device includes a pilot governor 18 having a spring to open configuration. The downstream pressure acts in the pilot governor 18 against the normal spring bias of the governor 18 to tend to restrict the flow through the governor 18 as the district pressure increases (i.e., greater downstream pressure closes the pilot governor). See page 6, lines 22-25 which the applicant submits describes a spring to open type valve. This interpretation of the passage on page 6 is further supported by the sentence that immediately follows, in which Yonnet discloses that the pressure in the control pipeline 29 acts in a second diaphragm chamber of the governor 18 in the same manner, i.e. so that an increase of pressure in the pipeline 29 also tends to restrict the flow through the governor. Thus, Yonnet discloses a device having a pilot governor 18 that includes a spring to open configuration which is opposite of claims 1, 3-6, and 8-13, which recite a pilot valve assembly having a spring to close configuration. Accordingly, Yonnet can not anticipate any of claims 1, 3-6, and 8-13. The applicant therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, and 8-13.

The claimed system is configured so that the pressure in the pilot loading pressure line overcomes the spring force of the spring to close valve, meaning that the pressure in the pilot loading pressure line 23 is greater than the pressure in either the main outlet line 20, the pilot control line 28, or the servo exhaust line 30 during operation. See paragraphs [0013] and [0014]. Thus, when the set point needs to be lowered, excess pressure in the pilot loading pressure line 32 may be vented into the servo exhaust line 30. The Yonnet device, on the

other hand, uses the feedback pressure line 11 as a lower limit for the pressure in line 29. Thus, there are times during operation of the Yonnet device that the pressure in line 29 is equal to the pressure in the feedback pressure line 11, in which case the pressure in the line 29 would not vent through the feedback pressure line 11, even if such venting were attempted (something that Yonnet does not disclose). Because Yonnet does not recognize that it is advantageous to always have the ability to vent the pressure from the pilot loading pressure line to the exhaust line, Yonnet fails to even recognize the problem solved by the claimed system. Moreover, Yonnet fails to suggest that the venting problem should be solved, let alone disclose or suggest a particular method of solving this problem, such as using a spring to close valve.

Additionally, Yonnet does not provide a motivation to substitute a spring to close pilot valve for the pilot governor 18 of the Yonnet device because making such a substitution would create a non-operable device. In particular, Yonnet specifically teaches that as the pressure in the line 29 or 11 increases, the pilot governor 18 restricts flow to the active governor 14. If a spring to close valve were substituted for the spring to open pilot governor 18, the Yonnet device would not function because as pressure in the lines 11 and 29 decreased, the pilot governor 18 would close, thus restricting flow to the active governor. This is exactly opposite of what Yonnet teaches should happen. Because substituting a spring to close pilot valve for the pilot governor 18 of Yonnet would result in a non-operable device, Yonnet provides no motivation to substitute a spring to close valve for the spring to open pilot governor. As a result, none of the pending claims is rendered obvious by Yonnet.

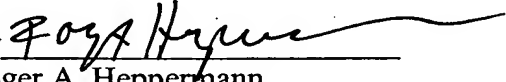
CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, and 8-13. No additional fees are believed due at this time. However, if there are any additional fees or refunds required, the Commissioner is directed to charge or debit Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP. A copy of this paper is enclosed herewith.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner call its attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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